

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY - EVENING JULY 18

NO. 17

NEWSPAPER

LA TIMES - JOHNSTON FROM LONDON. SECRETARY VANCE JOINED HIS EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI COUNTERPARTS...IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESTORE MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS TO THE LEVEL OF SIX MONTHS AGO...OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT THE...SESSION WAS NOT EXPECTED TO PRODUCE ANY BREAKTHROUGH...BUT BEYOND THAT DISCLAIMER, AMERICAN SPECIALISTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST WERE UNUSUALLY PRECISE IN SETTING FORTH WHAT THEY EXPECTED TO GAIN IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS, AND THEY SEEMED CERTAIN THAT THEY WOULD ACHIEVE IT. PRIMARILY, VANCE WILL BE SEEKING A COMMITMENT FROM BOTH SIDES TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS GOING,
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WITH FOLLOW-UP TALKS EXPECTED WITHIN A MONTH. ON THIS POINT, OFFICIALS WERE ESPECIALLY CONFIDENT, PREDICTING THAT A FLAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO MEET AGAIN COULD BE ACHIEVED "IN 30 MINUTES,...BUT VANCE ALSO HOPES TO LAY DOWN A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE LATER TALKS...SPECIFICALLY ON THE TABLE...ARE THREE ITEMS:

-AN ISRAELI PLAN, SET FORTH BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ...
CALLING FOR LIMITED AUTONOMY FOR PALESTINIANS...
-A...EGYPTIAN PLAN...IN WHICH ISRAELI SECURITY NEEDS IN THE

WEST BANK AND GAZA WOULD BE NEGOTIATED ALONG WITH A WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS AND SETTLEMENTS FROM THE TERRITORIES. THIS PLAN ALSO CALLS FOR LIMITED PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE AND A FIVE-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD.

-THE STILL-INCOMPLETE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES; GOVERNING A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE AGREEMENT,....

THE CURRENT TALKS ARE FOCUSING ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA ISSUES BECAUSE THOSE PROBLEMS REPRESENT THE ONLY REAL OBSTACLES TO WINDING UP THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

...THE MOOD MONDAY WAS TO STRESS POINTS IN COMMON-THE NEED TO CONSIDER ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS, THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ONLY A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT FOR THE TERRITORIES COULD BE WORKED OUT NOW AND THE NEED TO DEFINE SOME KIND OF SELF-RULE FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

THE AIM AT LEEDS CASTLE...IS TO CONCENTRATE ON THESE POINTS OF AGREEMENT AND DEFINE THEM FURTHER.

WIRES

(1) BARRY SCHWEID-AP FROM ENGLAND. EGYPT AND ISRAEL UNCLASSIFIED

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SHARPLY DISAGREED OVER THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER AT THE OPENING OF U.S.-SPONSORED MIDEAST PEACE TALKS TODAY. "I THINK THE GAP IS STILL VERY WIDE,, AN EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN SAID... "I THINK WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR A MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE ISRAELIS TO OUR PROPOSALS," SPOKESMAN HAMDI NADA TOLD REPORTERS...HODDING CARTER SAID...DAYAN AND KAMEL BEGAN...TALKS WITH A FRANK EXAMINATION OF EACH COUNTRY'S POSITION. "THEY DID NOT EVADE THE ISSUES," CARTER SAID. ...SADAT WARNED THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER MEETINGS...IF ISRAEL DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE CAIRO PROPOSALS AT THE TALKS... THE EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS...APPEARED TO IRRITATE DAYAN WHO CALLED THEM ,FAR OVERDONE" AND -TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE." THE TALKS...ARE DESIGNED TO INSPIRE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS AFTER A SIX-MONTH DEADLOCK.

(2) ROY GUTMAN-REUTERS FROM MAIDSTONE, ENGLAND. ISRAEL AND EGYPT TODAY DISCUSSED THEIR PLANS FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE BUT LATER ACKNOWLEDGED THEY REMAINED DEEPLY DIVIDED..VANCE DID NOT ACHIEVE HIS PRIMARY AIM IN THE FIRST SESSION -- AGREEMENT BY THE TWO SIDES TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. "NOTHING NEW HAPPENED

THIS MORNING TO CHANGE OUR MINDS." EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN HAMDI NADA SAID..."NOTHING HAPPENED TO ENABLE US TO SAY THERE WILL BE FURTHER TALKS AFTER THE CURRENT MEETINGS." HE DISAGREED WITH AN ASSERTION BY ISRAELI SPOKESMAN

NASTALI LAVIE THAT THE SESSION HAD LED TO BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF THE TWO PLANS. MR. NADA SAID THE GAP WAS
VERY WIDE AND EGYPT WAS WAITING FOR A POSITIVE ISRAELI
RESPONSE. MR. LAVIE SIMPLY SPOKE OF PRONOUNCED DIFFERENCES.
AMERICAN OFFICIALS CAUTIONED REPORTERS AGAINST PUTTING TOO
MUCH WEIGHT ON THE SPOKESMEN'S STATEMENTS. THEY SAID
TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED THEIR PROPOSALS FOR
HANDLING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION OVERLAPPED IN PLACES...

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US.S OFFICIALS SAID MR. VANCE HOPED THE TWO MINISTERS WOULD
AGREE WITH HIS ASSESSMENT THAT THE TWO PEACE PLANS
OVERLAP IN SOME OTHER AREAS; SUCH AS ISRAEL'S SECURITY
NEEDS...AS THEY WALKED INTO THE MEETING, MR. VANCE
COMMENTED "WE'LL SEE WHERE WE GO FROM HERE."

OFFICIALS SAID EACH SIDE REVIEWED THEIR OWN PROPOSALS
AND THE DISCUSSION THEN DEVELOPED INTO A CROSS-EXAMINATION.

THE EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN TOLD REUTERS THAT HE HAD BEEN
SURPRISED BY AMERICAN AND ISRAELI BRIEFINGS FOR REPORTERS
SUGGESTING THAT THE TALKS AT THE CASTLE COULD ONLY SETTLE
PLANS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

"THIS IS GIVING THE CONFERENCE A VERY LOW AIM" HE SAID. HE
ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER ANY FURTHER TALKS WOULD BE THE SINAI
DESERT VILLAGE OF EL-ARISH...EL-ARISH WAS "UNDER ISRAELI
OCCUPATION" AND A SITE FOR ANY MORE TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE
DETERMINED" HE ADDED.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID DELEGATES
"WORKED IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD AND BUSINESSLIKE WAY."
...EGYPTIAN DELEGATES ASKED A "LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
THAT SHOWED THEY WERE NOT VERY WELL INFORMED ON A NUMBER
OF POINTS," THE ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAID. THIS WAS
INTERPRETED BY REPORTERS AS CRITICISM OF THE AMERICANS, WHO
HAVE BEEN ACTING AS MEDIATORS AND HAVE BEEN EXPLAINING
EACH NATION'S PROPOSAL TO THE OTHER...

AN ISRAELI DELEGATE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE JOINT PRESS
CONFERENCE CAME CLOSE TO BEING CALLED OFF. "THE EGYPTIAN
SPOKESMAN SAID HE WAS NEW AT THE JOB AND DID NOT WISH TO
APPEAR." HE SAID. "OUR SPOKESMAN THEN SAID HE WOULD NOT
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PARTICIPATE IF HIS EGYPTIAN COUNTERPART REFUSED TO GO."
MR. CARTER, THE AMERICAN SPOKESMAN, PERSUADED BOTH MEN TO
APPEAR.

(3) UPI - NO ANDERSON THIS AFTERNOON

TV

(1) ABC-DUNSMORE FROM LEEDS.

REYNOLDS: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EGYPT, ISRAEL, AND THE UNITED STATES BEGAN THEIR CONFERENCE TODAY IN A HEAVILY-GUARDED CASTLE SOUTH OF LONDON. HERE'S A REPORT FROM BARRY DUNSMORE.

DUNSMORE: THE SECURITY FOR THE MEETING IS SAID TO BE THE HEAVIEST IN BRITISH PEACETIME HISTORY. BUT WHILE THE SELECTION OF THE THOUSAND YEAR OLD CASTLE SEEMED TO BE THE KIND OF SPLENDID ISOLATION WHICH MIGHT WELL SUIT THESE TALKS, ISRAELI MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN WAS NOT PARTICULARLY PLEASED SAYING THAT IT WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO BE FORCED OUT OF LONDON. SO BEGAN MORE THAN FIVE HOURS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE TWO SIDES RESPECTIVE PLANS FOR THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. AT A MID-AFTERNOON BRIEFING, SPOKESMEN FOR ALL THREE COUNTRIES HAD A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON HOW THINGS WERE GOING. EGYPT, PARTICULARLY, TOOK A NARROW PUBLIC VIEW. THE EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN SAID THE GAP WAS STILL VERY WIDE AND THAT EGYPT WAS STILL WAITING FOR A MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE ISRAELIS. FOR HIS PART, THE ISRAEL SPOKESMAN WAS MORE POSITIVE, SAYING EGYPT'S POSITION WAS PRESENTED IN AN INTELLIGENT AND SERIOUS WAY. NONE OF THE PRINCIPALS COMMENTED PUBLICALLY. BUT GENERAL DAYAN IS KNOWN TO FEEL THAT THERE ARE COMMON POINTS IN THE TWO PLANS WHICH THE U.S. HOPES TO BUILD ON. OTHER ISRAELIS OFFICIALS SAID THE ATMOSPHERE TODAY WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO CREATE UNCLASSIFIED

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MOMENTUM FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. BARRY DUNSMORE, ABC NEWS, NEAR LEEDS CASTLE, SOUTHERN ENGLAND.

(2) NBC-DAVID BRINKLEY. THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS MET AGAIN TODAY AND TALKED IN A MEDIEVAL CASTLE IN ENGLAND, SHOOK HANDS AND SPOKE PLEASANTLY TO EACH OTHER AND -- THAT WAS ABOUT IT -- THERE WAS NO PROGRESS.

(3) CBS (KALB FROM LEEDS)

MUDD: IN AN 1100-YEAR-OLD CASTLE OUTSIDE LONDON TODAY, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT TRIED TO NARROW THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER A MIDDLE EAST PEACE. MARVIN KALB REPORTS.

KALB: IT WAS ON A CROQUET LAWN OUTSIDE OF THE PICTURE-POSTCARD CASTLE THAT THE MINISTERS POSED FOR THIS PORTRAIT

-- THE FIRST AMERICAN-SPONSORED, EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS SINCE JANUARY. LATER, IN A BACK ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THIS 9TH CENTURY CASTLE, VANCE STRESSED FOUR AREAS OF SIMILARITY IN THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI PLANS FOR SETTLING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM ON THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. BOTH SIDES, VANCE SAID, HAVE ALREADY AGREED ON A FIVE-YEAR TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, ON SOME FORM OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE PALESTINIANS, ON SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL, AND FINALLY ON THE NEED FOR A TRUE PEACE. THEN ISRAEL'S DAYAN AND EGYPT'S KAMAL PROBED ONE ANOTHER'S POSITIONS AND PLANS IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A SERIOUS, BUSINESSLIKE FASHION.

IN ITSELF THIS WAS PROGRESS, BUT THE WORD WAS NOT USED.

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SECURITY REMAINED EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY. SCOTLAND YARD CONTINUED TO OPERATE ON THE ASSUMPTION OF AN ACTIVE THREAT TO DISRUPT THIS MEETING. IN BETWEEN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS SPOKESMEN FOR THE THREE DELEGATIONS EMERGED FROM BEYOND THE MOAT. THE EGYPTIAN STRESSED THE WIDE GAP SEPARATING THE TWO SIDES; THE ISRAELI ACKNOWLEDGED THE GAP BUT TRIED TO SOUND HOPEFUL. THE EGYPTIANS ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO ACKNOWLEDGE PROGRESS BECAUSE THEY ARE STILL HOPING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PRESENT A COMPROMISE PEACE PLAN AND FORCE ISRAEL TO ACCEPT IT. THE AMERICANS ARE TRYING TO AVOID THAT, AND ONE CURRENT PLAN IS TO SEND U.S. ROVING AMBASSADOR ALFRED ATHERTON BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF STIMULATING A SERIES OF DIRECT FOLLOW-UP TALKS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

MUDD: EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT WARNED TODAY THAT IF ISRAEL DOES NOT RESPOND TO EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS DURING THOSE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT EGYPT HAS A PRECISE PLAN AND THAT AN ISRAELI REPLY IS MANDATORY.

CHRISTOPHER

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